



July 15, 2013

COCA Updates are disseminated biweekly. More frequent distributions occur when there is emergency information or CDC event-specific updates to share. The next COCA Update is scheduled for **July 29**.

This issue contains information from **July 1 – July 15, 2013** and guidance documents relevant to current public health events.

For questions about these or other clinical issues, please write to us at coca@cdc.gov.

Additional Resources

[CDC Emergency on Twitter](#)

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Topics and Highlights

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COCA News and Announcements

Upcoming COCA Call/Webinar:

Understanding the Public's Response to a Possible Scenario Involving Inhalation Anthrax

Date: Tuesday, July 23, 2013

Time: 2:00 - 3:00 pm (Eastern Time)

Dial In Number: 888-233-9077

Passcode: 8674163

Webinar: <https://www.mymeetings.com/nc/join.php?i=PW1019513&p=8674163&t=c>

In planning an effective response to a bioterrorism incident, it is critical to understand and anticipate the public's viewpoint, their perceptions of the threat and their intended behaviors. This includes their likelihood of taking recommended precautions and their likelihood of taking matters into their own hands. In particular, it is important to understand the perspective of racial/ethnic minority groups given that these communities may be disproportionately affected in a real attack. During this webinar, subject matter experts will discuss results from public opinion polls conducted between December 2012 to January 2013, which assessed how people would respond to a possible release of anthrax spores in an unidentified area.

CE = Continuing Education

http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2013/callinfo_072313.asp

Recent COCA Call/Webinar:

Prevention and Treatment of Injuries following Hurricanes and Tornadoes

Date: Thursday, July 11, 2013

Injuries following tornadoes and hurricanes result in significant morbidity and mortality. Both CDC and State Health Departments play important roles in providing assistance in disaster preparedness and response, including pre-hospital transport decision making, injury surveillance, and emergency risk communication. Following hurricanes and tornadoes, it is critical to have alternative treatment sites, appropriate wound management, injury data collection, and health messaging to reduce injuries. During this COCA call, subject matter experts discussed the current state of science and epidemiology and state level response, with specific examples from Florida.

CE = Continuing Education

http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2013/callinfo_071113.asp

Archived COCA Conference Calls are available at: <http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/callinfo.asp>

Free continuing education (CME, CNE, ACPE, CEU, CECH, and AAVSB/RACE) is available for most calls.

CDC News and Announcements

NEW: CDC Vital Signs: Prescription Painkiller Overdoses: A growing epidemic, especially among women – July (CDC)

About 18 women die every day of a prescription painkiller overdose in the US, more than 6,600 deaths in 2010. Prescription painkiller overdoses are an under-recognized and growing problem for women. Although men are still more likely to die of prescription painkiller overdoses (more than 10,000 deaths in 2010), the gap between men and women is closing.

<http://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/PrescriptionPainkillerOverdoses/index.html>

CDC Science Clips: Volume 5, Issue: 26 – (CDC)

Each week select science clips are shared with the public health community to enhance awareness of emerging scientific knowledge. The focus is applied public health research and prevention science that has the capacity to improve health now.

<http://www.cdc.gov/phlic/sciclips/issues/>

Public Health Preparedness

NEW: Free Online Course: Evacuation and Shelter-in- Place Needs of People with Medical Dependencies During a Disaster

The Yale New Haven Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response offers a series of online courses on emergency preparedness and healthcare solutions. This course is free through July 31st.

<http://www.ynhhms1.com/yaleoeplms/>

Emergency Preparedness and Response – (CDC)

Find resources for All Hazards and Specific Hazards preparedness.

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/hazards-all.asp>

Emergency Preparedness and Response Training Resources for Clinicians – (CDC)

Find online and in-person training centers and resources at

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/trainingresources.asp>

Natural Disasters and Severe Weather

Hurricane Preparedness: Make a Plan – (CDC)

There are many steps you can take in advance to increase your safety during a storm.

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/plan.asp>

Health and Safety Concerns for All Disasters – (CDC)

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/alldisasters.asp>

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)

MMWR publications are prepared by the CDC. To electronically subscribe, go to <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/mmwrsubscribe.html>

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- [Update: Recommendations for Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus \(MERS-CoV\)](#)
- [Outbreak of *Salmonella* Heidelberg Infections Linked to a Single Poultry Producer — 13 States, 2012–2013](#)
- [Homicide Rates Among Persons Aged 10–24 Years — United States, 1981–2010](#)

Infectious, Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Diseases

Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV)

Update: Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) – July 11 (CDC)

A novel coronavirus called “Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus” (MERS-CoV) was identified in 2012 as the cause of respiratory illness in people. Investigations are being done to figure out the source of MERS-CoV and how it spreads.

<http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/mers/index.html>

Avian Influenza A (H7N9) Virus

Update: Avian Influenza A (H7N9) Virus – July 10 (CDC)

Human infections with a new avian influenza A (H7N9) virus continue to be reported in China. The virus has been detected in poultry in China as well. While mild illness in human cases has been seen, most patients have had severe respiratory illness and some people have died. No cases of H7N9 outside of China have been reported. The new H7N9 virus has not been detected in people or birds in the United States.

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/h7n9-virus.htm>

Seasonal Influenza

Weekly Flu View – July 5 (CDC)

This is a weekly influenza surveillance report prepared by CDC Influenza Division. All data are preliminary and may change as CDC receives more reports.

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>

Planning and Preparedness: Health Professionals and Seasonal Flu – (HHS)

Health care providers play an important role during flu season. The following guidance and information will assist health care providers and service organizations to plan and respond to seasonal flu.

<http://www.flu.gov/planning-preparedness/hospital/index.html>

Travel Safety

Current Travel Warnings – July 12 (US Department of State)

Travel Warnings are issued when long-term, protracted conditions that make a country dangerous or unstable lead the State Department to recommend that Americans avoid or consider the risk of travel to that country. A Travel Warning is also issued when the U.S. Government's ability to assist American citizens is constrained due to the closure of an embassy or consulate or because of a drawdown of its staff.

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html

Food, Drug and Device Safety

NEW: FDA Investigates a multi-state outbreak of *Listeria monocytogenes* linked to certain Crave Brothers Farmstead Classics Cheeses – July 5 (FDA)

The FDA is currently engaged in a fast-breaking investigation of a multi-state outbreak of *Listeria monocytogenes* infections linked to Les Frères, Petit Frère, and Petit Frère with Truffles cheese distributed by Crave Brothers Farmstead Cheese Company of Waterloo, Wisconsin. The FDA is conducting an inspection at the firm's processing facility in cooperation with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture.

<http://www.fda.gov/Food/RecallsOutbreaksEmergencies/Outbreaks/ucm359588.htm>

MedWatch: The FDA Safety Information and Adverse Event Reporting Program – (FDA)

Your FDA gateway for clinically important safety information and reporting serious problems with human medical products.

<http://www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch/default.htm>

FoodSafety.gov Reports FDA and USDA Food Recalls, Alerts, Reporting & Resources – (HHS/USDA/FDA/CDC/NIH)

For recalls and alerts by both FDA and USDA, or to report a problem or make inquiries.

<http://www.foodsafety.gov/recalls/recent/index.html>

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The Emergency Risk Communication Branch (ERCB) Clinician Communication Team works to enhance partners' knowledge of emerging threats and their effects on human populations, and to provide relevant, timely information to help manage these threats by developing and maintaining mechanisms for communication. The Clinician Communication Team is responsible for the management of all COCA products.

For information on this and other clinical issues or to send your feedback please contact us at coca@cdc.gov

ERCB offers a variety of free tools and resources to help you enhance your knowledge of emergency preparedness and response:

[CDC Health Partners Outreach Facebook page](#) - real time updates, guidance, and situational awareness for public health partners on Facebook.

[Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity](#) – resources for health care providers.

[Subscribe the COCA RSS Feed](#) - get notified of conference calls, updates, and CDC guidance for health providers.

[Crisis & Emergency Risk Communication \(CERC\) Training](#) - course on the fundamentals of CDC's Crisis & Emergency Risk Communication.

[Selective National Assessment Profiles \(SNAPS\)](#) - snapshots of state population data and local-level community profile information.

[Risk Communicator](#) –quarterly online newsletter providing guidance for emergency risk communication strategy.



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